India, in general, attract excise duty at mean Cenvat rate of 16%, which is charged on the ex-factory price or equivalent thereof. When taken as percentage of final consumer price, excise duty incidence works out to be in the range of 8% to 10%. Besides, State Governments also levy VAT/ sales tax on sale and purchase of goods. Though the general rate of VAT is 12.5%, in specific cases it may vary from State to State and goods to goods. As such, it is not possible to estimate the exact incidence of indirect taxes levied on various commodities. Details of incidence of indirect taxes in other countries are not maintained and so it is not possible to compare the total incidence of indirect taxes on commodities in India with that in other countries. Generally speaking, te GST or VAT in most developed countries is in the range of 10% to 25%.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Many of the processed food items are already exempt from excise duty. As regards pesticides and less power consuming TFL, fans, the current rates are 16% and 16% respectively. There is no proposal under consideration for reduction of excise duty on them at present.

Income tax raids on firms in Goa

3559. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income Tax raids made on individuals/companies/ firms, in the State of Goa, under various sections of Income Tax Act, during the last five years;

(b) the status of each of the cases;

(c) the prosecutions, if any, filed in these matters; and

(d) the convictions, if any achieved with respect to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Income Tax Department have carried out Search & Seizure operations u/s 132 of the Income Tax Act in the case of 11 (eleven) groups of persons such as individuals/companies/ firms, in the state of Goa, during the last five Financial years.

(b) Status of the cases is as under:

Financial Year	Status of the case
2002-03 2003-04 2004-05	Assessments are completed
2005-06 2006-07	The reports have been sent to Assessing Officers

(c) No prosecutions filed in these matters.

(d) Not applicable in view of the reply to part (c).

Lowering of excise duty on pharmaceutical products

3560. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Parliamentary Committee has recommended the Government to bring down excise duty on all pharmaceutical products to 8 per cent from the present 16 per cent;

(b) whether they have also recommended that duty should be completely exempted on drugs to fight cancer and AIDS; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government had received recommendation for reduction in excise duty on pharmaceutical products from 16% to 8%

(b) Government had also received recommendation for exemption from excise duty on Anti-cancer and Anti-AIDS drugs.

(c) The recommendation for reduction of excise duty on pharmaceutical products from 16% to 8% was examined but it was decided to continue with the existing rates. As regards the recommendation for exemption from excise duty on Anti-cancer and Anti-AIDS drugs, Government had exempted a number of Anti-cancer and Anti-AIDS drugs and bulk drugs for their manufacture from excise duty.